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AMERICAN MILITARY UNIT IN BUCHAREST

30 April 1945

TO : Commanding Officer, Hqs. 2677th Regiment, OSS, (Prov.),
APO 512, U.S. Army

Attention: Chief, X-2

FROM : Chief, American Military Unit in Bucharest.

SUBJECT : Major Robert Bishop

Attached is a copy of the report referred to in our signal #1075 made by X-2's #120 on Elisabeth Messy-Feber. Since it does not come from any official source and represents only information that one individual has been able to pick up, it must be evaluated accordingly.

Word that Cristea had arrived in Italy via Belgrade caused a certain amount of consternation with me and with Colonel Jadwin, who is in command of the American ACC during General Schuyler's absence in the States. At the same time, there is a certain feeling of relief over the fact that she is not in Rumania if, indeed, she did know a great deal about the activities of Bishop and the others in X-2. Our chief concern is over the fact that her departure was arranged and effected with the help of an American Officer when she did not have, so far as known, Russian clearance to leave Rumania. It is almost certain that she did not have such clearance. Otherwise, she could have gone out by air directly to Italy as she did have AFHQ permission to enter Italy. Perhaps it will not soon come to the attention of interested Russians that she is now in Italy or, if it does come to their attention, it is conceivable that they will not regard her of sufficient importance to make any serious issue of the matter with us in case they find out anything about Bishop's part in arranging her "escape".

Regardless of whether or not the Russians make any complaint to us, I can not help but feel a little concerned over General Schuyler's reaction when he hears of the matter. For some time Bishop has been talking about arranging an escape route, but always his plan seemed to concern the Poles more than Rumanians. Lt. Norman Armour, the ACC Officer assigned by General Schuyler to work with Major Bishop, has always had a great interest in the escape route because of the Poles and he had kept General Schuyler aware of the fact that such a plan was being attempted. About two weeks ago, however, General Schuyler ordered Lt. Armour to immediately cease all his activities in connection with the formation of any sort of escape route. At the same time, General Schuyler informed me that no one in OSS was to take any further part in arranging the escape of anyone who did not have Russian clearance. I called Major Bishop to my office and told him of General Schuyler's order and asked that he immediately cease any activity in this connection. Bishop indicated to me that he had not done very much and that he would cease as ordered.

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With respect to Cristea, the actual circumstances concerning her departure and subsequent arrival in Belgrade are about as follows, based upon information supplied by Lt. Negropontes and Lt. Thames. Lt. Negropontes had, for some time, been planning a trip to Timisoara to pick up certain papers which he claims he knew were available to him and which would benefit X-2. He had asked and received permission from Lt. Thames to make the trip whenever he could best arrange it and he did arrange to go to Timisoara on Thursday, 19 April. He arranged to go on that date because he had been told by Major Bishop that Cristea would also leave for Timisoara at that time and Bishop asked Negropontes to arrange contact with a Yugoslav in Timisoara who would escort Cristea to Belgrade. Negropontes' first statement to me was that he had been ordered by Bishop to make the arrangements but he admitted that Bishop was not in a position to order a Rumanian Officer to do anything. Cristea left Thursday ~~morning~~, probably alone and probably driving the car herself, and she reached Timisoara some time Thursday night. It was the following day that Negropontes, Cristea, and the Yugoslav Officer departed for Belgrade and made the trip without any difficulty. At Belgrade they met, apparently, Captain Cary, Lt. Miner, and Colonel Thayer, representing that Cristea was in danger in Rumania and asking that her evacuation to Italy be arranged. The car in which they made the trip was left in Belgrade with the OSS Unit and Negropontes was brought back in another car as arranged by the Yugoslav.

In spite of the fact that I passed General Schuyler's order along to Bishop and that Cristea's escape was arranged entirely without my knowledge, I am not sure that General Schuyler may not still hold me responsible. He is quite a stickler for discipline--as witness the case of Lt. Golovin--and he is quite conscious also of the necessity for American Officers doing nothing to arouse the suspicion of the Russians, and he may feel that disciplinary action other than that taken against Bishop may be necessary. It is even possible that it may affect the entire OSS Unit here as the incident can not help but add fuel to the fire of his general feeling about separate OSS Unit in Rumania. Colonel Jadwin and Colonel Farnsworth both know, however, that Bishop acted alone in this matter and that he did it while relieved of his duties, and they realize that it was something that I could not have prevented.

With respect to the car, I had some time ago questioned Bishop about taking over the car upon his departure. The automobile was represented by Bishop as having been bought by him from an American citizen in Rumania and he informed me that when he purchased the car he had an agreement with the individual that he would sell it back to him upon his leaving Rumania. Bishop told me that he would "try" to prevail upon the person to allow the transfer of the car to me and when I asked him about his efforts in this direction, he told me that he had been unsuccessful and he felt honor bound to give the car back. When he reported this fact to me I told him that he should, without fail, turn in the American plates on the car and also the Russian permit, which permit gave free movement of the car around the city. I also told Lt. Thames that he would be responsible for picking up the plates and the permit. The plates were turned over to Lt. Thames along with a permit

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but the permit was an old 1944 Russian permit and not the one for 1945. It seems quite obvious that the 1945 permit was left in the car as it was the one which Cristea drove from Bucharest to Timisoara and, subsequently, from Timisoara to Belgrade. It can only be concluded, therefore, that Bishop's story to me about the car was an outright falsehood and that his plans at all times included the use of the car by Cristea for the trip to Belgrade.

I feel, and Colonel Jadwin feels, that the strongest sort of disciplinary action should be taken against Bishop. I think that if something of this sort is done and I can so inform General Schuyler upon his return that it is being done, he may consider the matter closed here and particularly will this be true if no complaint comes to him from the Russians. With respect to Negropontes, we are dismissing him as a Liaison Officer and informing him that he is to have no further contact with the Unit, which is all that we can do as regards a Rumanian Officer. Having taken this action regarding Negropontes and if disciplinary action is also taken against Bishop, I feel that we can fairly well support our position with General Schuyler and even with the Russians if anything comes up later.

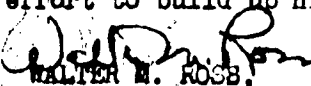
Concerning Cristea's arrival in Italy, no one has been told in Bucharest except Colonel Jadwin. I have cautioned members of our Communications Unit and others in this office against letting the information leak out and Jadwin does not propose to tell anyone in the ACC other than to tell General Schuyler upon his return. In one way or another probably, eventually, it is going to become known or suspected that she is in Italy, but we can at least make it difficult for the truth to be known and deny knowledge of the fact.

A couple of other incidents have occurred with respect to Bishop since he left which are worthy of comment. One of the officers of this unit noticed an American protection card early this week on a house which was not known to him as the residence of anyone connected with the ACC or of this unit. He inspected the card and noticed that it was signed by Major Bishop and subsequently went with him to call at the house to find out what American might live there. The house turned out to be occupied by one Dr. H. Aronovici, but not by any Americans. When asked why the card was displayed on the door, the doctor rather shrugged his shoulders and stated that it had been given to him because he was a friend of the Americans. The card was picked up and returned to the ACC.

In a conversation yesterday with Colonel Farnsworth, General Schuyler's Executive Officer, he told me that I would be interested in knowing that during Bishop's last few days in Rumania, he had called to see him (Farnsworth) and in the course of his conversation confided to Farnsworth that he (Bishop) knew positively that Lt. Col. Ross had a personal dislike of Farnsworth and that Ross was making statements about Farnsworth which were not flattering at all. Colonel Farnsworth and I have gotten along very well since I reached Bucharest and he stated he knew positively the story given him by Bishop was untrue and he thought I should know about it. Lt. Armour indicated to me also that Bishop's general comment to him about me was not favorable and this bears out, to a considerable extent, the belief which I had previously expressed as much as four or five weeks ago that it seemed to be Bishop's policy to under rate most anybody in the OSS Unit in an effort to build up himself.

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WALTER M. ROSS,
Lt. Col., AUS,
Chief of Unit.

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Daughter of Mme. Feher, who married a Hungarian Jew (her second husband) owner of the Industria Lanei, whose material situation is a very good one.

During the Antonescu regime, Jocky Cristea worked for the German information Service, gathering information from aristocratic and democratic circles. She handed in reports on prominent individuals.

During 1941-1942 she worked with Rohrscheidt, Counselor of the German Legation who was later sent to Spain. He was connected with the secret police and was in Rumania for a period of several years. He conducted an extensive espionage network and Fifth Column.

Later she worked for Tester's service under the name of "Mona Lisa". She also worked in the Abwehr, in Major Gregory's section. (Gregory had a Scottish wife--he was of Austrian origin and died in an automobile accident in Italy in 1944.) Her contact with Gregory was Dr. Paul, who gave her directives.

The Rumanian secret Service knew of her work for the Germans but she was not looked upon with favor because it was learned by them that she also worked for the Hungarians.

She lived with Martin Haller, a Swiss who also worked for the German Service and whom she expected to marry in order to be able to leave Rumania for Switzerland. Later she had an affair with Mircea Cristescu, brother of the notorious Eugen Cristescu. Eugen refused to let her have an exit vis because of her work for the Germans and Hungarians.

At present she has succeeded in penetrating American circles and is having an affair with an American superior officer. She is seen in the American Army car No. 33. She states that she is going to marry the American and will go to Turkey and Egypt and from there to America.

She is a beautiful woman, has plenty of money, knows several foreign languages but has a very bad reputation in Rumanian society.

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